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INT-939-15

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

3 April 1975

Intelligence Community Staff

[Redacted]

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The Honorable Albert C. Hall
Assistant Secretary (Intelligence)
Department of Defense
Washington, D. C. 20301

Dear Al:

For several years there has been increasing discussion over the requirement for the rapid dissemination of imagery within the Washington-based Intelligence Community. The need to focus on this requirement has become more compelling

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[Redacted]

Currently there are no approved plans for electronic transmission of imagery within the Washington area. NPIC and DIA have proposed systems whose preliminary cost estimates are on the order of [Redacted] million and which would require 3-4 years to implement. As a result of our recent telephone conversation, I know there is a question in your mind, as there is in mine, about the need for this degree of sophistication. The evidence on this point is not yet complete.

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[Redacted]

Therefore, I believe that we need and should proceed with an interim system using secure voice and high quality facsimile transmission and involving a limited number of stations as an initial test network. The briefing on this topic that was presented to you recently has now been provided, also, to senior levels in CIA and to General Graham and his senior associates. The Intelligence Community Staff reports that there is general agreement that this is a workable system, reasonably inexpensive

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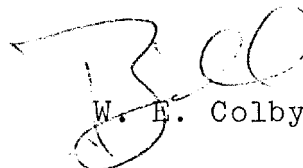
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Accordingly, I have advised General Wilson, D/DCI/IC, to coordinate action leading to the implementation of this alternative. I request the collaboration of your office with the Intelligence Community Staff in working out the details of this action in order to ensure maximum responsiveness to military needs as well as those of the Intelligence Community.

This immediate step should not preclude our going ahead hereafter with other proposals if further study develops appropriately persuasive evidence of need in relation to cost. Investigation of that need and means to satisfy it should be pursued on behalf of the Community as a whole. This matter should be a topic for further discussion by our staffs.

I would appreciate any further thoughts you may have on this subject.

Sincerely,


W. E. Colby

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